

REMARKS

The indication that claim 9 includes patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 9, which has been canceled to place the claims in condition for allowance.

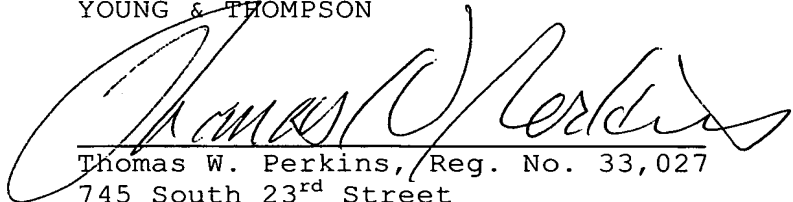
Claims 8 and 10 were rejected as anticipated by PROMEC EP 1 209 103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment in which the claims have been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 9.

In view of the present amendment, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas W. Perkins', is written over the printed name and address.

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